

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently amended) A system for providing pickup and delivery of luggage over a distributed network, the system comprising:

a. at least one computer server connected to the distributed network, the server running a luggage transport server application;

b. a plurality of ~~service partners~~ luggage carriers each having sites, each site operatively associated with a computer connected to the distributed network, each ~~service partners~~ luggage carrier's associated computer running at least one server application to provide online service to users over the distributed network, each ~~partner~~ luggage carrier's associated computer also running at least one luggage transport client application for interaction with the luggage transport server application;

c. a plurality of user input/output devices operatively configured to access an online service ~~at a service partners site~~ over the distributed network;

d. the luggage transport server application operatively connected to data storage residing on computer readable media, and the luggage transport server application configured to:

i. receive and store luggage travel segment data from a user;

ii. programmatically match a luggage travel segment to a selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carrier;

iii. output selected luggage travel segment data to the selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carrier.

18. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

iv. receive and store luggage travel segment data from the selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carrier;

v. output luggage travel segment data to the user.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

iv. receive and store luggage travel segment bid data from the selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carriers;

v. output luggage travel segment bid data to the user;

vi. receive and store luggage travel segment bid acceptance data from the user;

vii. output luggage travel segment bid acceptance data to the selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carriers.

20. (Currently amended) A system for providing pickup and delivery of luggage across multiple service providers over a distributed network, the system comprising:

a. at least one computer server connected to the distributed network, the server running a luggage transport server application;

b. a plurality of ~~service partners~~ luggage carriers each having sites, each site operatively associated with a computer connected to the distributed network, each ~~service partners~~ luggage carrier's associated computer running at least one server application to provide online service to users over the distributed network, each ~~partner~~ luggage carrier's associated computer also running at least one luggage transport client application for interaction with the luggage transport server application;

c. a plurality of user input/output devices operatively configured to access an online service ~~at a service partners site~~ over the distributed network;

d. the luggage transport server application operatively connected to data storage residing on computer readable media, and the luggage transport server application configured to:

- i. receive and store luggage travel segment data from a user;
- ii. programmatically match a luggage travel segment to a selected ~~service partners~~luggage carrier;
- iii. output selected luggage travel segment data to the selected ~~service partners~~luggage carrier;
- iv. receive and store luggage travel segment data from the selected ~~service partners~~luggage carrier;
- v. output luggage travel segment data to the user.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

- i. programmatically match a luggage travel segment to a plurality of selected ~~service partners~~luggage carriers;
- ii. output selected luggage travel segment data to the plurality of selected ~~service partners~~luggage carriers;
- iii. receive and store luggage travel segment bid data from each ~~service partners~~luggage carrier;
- iv. output luggage travel segment bid data to the user;
- vi. receive and store luggage travel segment's bid acceptance data from the user;
- vii. output luggage travel segment's bid acceptance data to the plurality of ~~service partners~~luggage carriers.

22. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the luggage transport server application is further configured to:

- i. receive and store a plurality of luggage travel segments' data from a user;
- ii. programmatically match each luggage travel segment to at least one selected ~~service partners~~luggage carrier;

iii. output selected luggage travel segment data to each selected ~~service partners~~
luggage carrier;

iv. receive and store luggage travel segment data for each segment from the
matched ~~service partners~~ luggage carriers;

v. output selected luggage travel data for each segment to the user.

23. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the luggage transport server
application is further configured to:

i. receive and store a plurality of luggage travel segments' data from a user;

ii. programmatically match each luggage travel segment to a plurality of
selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carriers;

iii. output selected luggage travel segment data from each segment to each
selected ~~service partners~~ luggage carrier;

iv. receive and store each luggage travel segments' bid data from a plurality of
~~service partners~~ luggage carriers;

v. output luggage travel segments' bid data to the user;

vi. receive and store luggage travel segments' bid acceptance data from the user;

vii. output luggage travel segments' bid acceptance data to the plurality of
~~service partners~~ luggage carriers.